

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03302 130830Z

10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DLOS-03 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /124 W

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R 130805Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8650

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3302

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KS

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS: PARTY APPROVES CONTINENTAL SHELF
AGREEMENT

REF: TOKYO 1314

1. LDP HAS APPROVED CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT. ACCORDING
TO NORTHEAST ASIA DIV DIR SEO, PARTY FOREIGN AFFAIRS RESEARCH
COUNCIL CLEARED OFF ON AGREEMENT LAST WEEK AND BOTH POLICY
AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS APPROVED MARCH 12. AGREEMENT WILL BE
GIVEN FORMAL STAMP OF CABINET APPROVAL MARCH 18 AND THEN
SUBMITTED TO DIET.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 03302 130830Z

2. DIET APPROVAL IS FAR FROM FOREGONE CONCLUSION, SEO COMMENTED. COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS ARE AGAINST AGREEMENT, AS ARE OTHERS WHO ARGUE THAT AGREEMENT SHOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL RESULTS OF LOS CONFERENCE KNOWN. PROPONENTS OF AGREEMENT WERE ABLE TO BRUSH ASIDE SAME ARGUMENT IN LDP COUNCILS BY MAINTAINING THAT LOS OUTCOME WOULD NOT AFFECT VALIDITY OF SHELF AGREEMENT. FURTHERMORE, WAIT FOR CONFERENCE TO REACH CONCLUSION ON OCEANIC ZONES MIGHT BE LONG AND UNCERTAIN. SEO NOT SURE WHAT EFFECT THESE ARGUMENTS WOULD HAVE ON OPPOSITION PARTIES.

3. COMMENT: LDP APPROVAL FOR SHELF AGREEMENT IS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR MIKI AND MIYAZAWA, AND ONE OF VERY FEW CONCRETE RESULTS SO FAR OF THEIR LOW-KEY CONSENSUS CONSULTATIONS APPROACH. BUREAUCRATS TRIED TO GAIN LDP APPROVAL FOR AGREEMENT LAST YEAR AND FAILED. APPROVAL IS ANOTHER REFLECTION OF BASIC PRO-ROK SET OF LEADERSHIP IN PARTY, IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR.

4. THOUGH PROSPECTS IN DIET ARE NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, WE BELIEVE LDP APPROVAL REPRESENTS THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO RATIFICATION OF SHELF AGREEMENT.
HODGSON

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